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SUBJECT: U/S BOLTON MEETS WITH ITALY'S G-8 SHERPA ON
NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES

CLASSIFIED BY: DCM EMIL M. SKODON FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

¶11. (C) SUMMARY. ITALIAN G-8 SHERPA CASTELLANETA TOOK U/S BOLTON'S POINT ON THE NEED TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON IRAN, AND EXPRESSED ITALIAN DISPLEASURE OVER "EU THREE" ATTEMPTS TO ARROGATE EU POLICY ON THIS ISSUE. HE ADDED THAT IRAN MAY BE "MORE OPEN" AT PRESENT, PERHAPS DUE TO MOUNTING INSTABILITY IN IRAQ. CASTELLANETA SAID ITALY WILL WORK WITH CANADA TO DEVELOP AND CIRCULATE A COMMON POSITION ON A ONE-YEAR FREEZE ON THE TRANSFER OF ENRICHMENT AND PROCESSING-RELATED TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THIS CAN BE DONE BEFORE THE NEXT SENIOR GROUP IN A WAY THAT ACCORDS WITH USG PRIORITIES WHILE PRESERVING THE INTERESTS OF ROME AND OTTAWA, CLEARING THE WAY FOR ADOPTION AT SEA ISLAND. END SUMMARY.

¶12. (SBU) UNDER SECRETARY BOLTON MET ON MAY 17 WITH PM BERLUSCONI'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR, GIOVANNI CASTELLANETA, WHO ALSO SERVES AS ITALY'S G-8 SHERPA. OTHER PARTICIPANTS WERE MFA DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR CLAUDIO BISOGNIERO, CASTELLANETA DEPUTIES FRANCESCO TALO AND PAOLO DIONISI, CHARGE, AND POL-MIL COUNSELOR. AFTER DISCUSSING THE PM'S MAY 19 VISIT TO WASHINGTON, CONVERSATION TURNED TO PROLIFERATION ISSUES WITHIN THE G-8 CONTEXT.

¶13. (C) U/S BOLTON NOTED THAT THE MAY 13 SG MEETING, WHICH WAS LIMITED TO PROLIFERATION AND ENRICHMENT ISSUES, MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS. HE OUTLINED THE BACKGROUND OF THE USG POSITION FAVORING A BAN ON NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP TRANSFERS RELATED TO ENRICHMENT AND PROCESSING, SAYING THAT WASHINGTON SOUGHT TO "DRAW A BRIGHT LINE" AND BEGIN DISCUSSION OF HOW BEST TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM. THE US CERTAINLY HAD NO OBJECTION TO ITALIAN INTEREST IN FURTHER PURSUIT OF SUCH TECHNOLOGIES FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

¶14. (C) CASTELLANETA AND BISOGNIERO EMPHASIZED THAT ITALIAN INTERESTS WERE NOT LIMITED TO FUTURE ENRICHMENT, BUT ALSO FOCUSED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINT VENTURES AND RELATED ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY. THEY SAID THE MFA IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING AN INTERAGENCY POSITION. ITALY THINKS IT "CAN WORK WITH THE CANADIAN POSITION" AND HOPES TO COORDINATE WITH CANADA AND CIRCULATE A PROPOSAL FOR A ONE-YEAR MORATORIUM THAT COULD BE ADOPTED AT THE SG IN EARLY JUNE. THIS WOULD GIVE AMPLE TIME FOR AN AGREED POSITION AT SEA ISLAND.

¶15. (C) U/S BOLTON OBSERVED THAT THE "EU THREE" (UK, FRANCE, GERMANY) ARE NOT KEEPING UP PRESSURE ON IRAN, WHICH WOULD LIKE TO "CLOSE THE FILE" AT THE IAEA. HE ASSERTED THAT THE US WILL NOT LET THIS HAPPEN, SINCE PRESSURE IS VITAL TO SUCCESS. LIBYAN ABANDONMENT OF ITS WMD PROGRAM PROVES THIS; CONTINUED DPRK AND IRANIAN INTRANSIGENCE DEMONSTRATES THE RESULTS OF INSUFFICIENT PRESSURE. U/S BOLTON UNDERSCORED THE NEED FOR A STRONG AND UNIFIED STATEMENT ON IRAN AT SEA ISLAND.

¶16. (C) CASTELLANETA AND BISOGNIERO RESPONDED THAT ITALY DISLIKES THE "EU THREE" CONCEPT AND RESENTS THE ATTEMPT OF THE THREE GOVERNMENTS TO ARROGATE THIS AREA OF EU POLICY. (CASTELLANETA -- A FORMER AMBASSADOR TO TEHRAN -- NOTED THAT IRANIAN OFFICIALS SUGGESTED TO FM FRATTINI TWO WEEKS EARLIER THAT ITALY JOIN THE "THREE.") HE ADDED THAT IRAN NOW SEEMS "MORE OPEN" ON SOME ISSUES, DUE IN PART TO CONCERN ABOUT THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN IRAQ, ADDING THAT THIS MAY PRESENT AN OPPORTUNE "WINDOW TO PUSH."

¶17. (U) U/S BOLTON DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAR THIS CABLE.

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